

Montgomery County Council

FY17 Evaluative Comments Information Sheet

Name of Organization: A Wider Circle, Inc. 1	
Category/Program Area: Established; Basic Need	Amount Requested: \$155,500
Project Description: Provide County residents living in poverty with the comfort, stability and dignity of a fully furnished home.	
Public benefit <i>(identified and demonstrated need; target population well served by proposal; project justification):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Furnishes the homes of 5,550 County adults and children, with furnishings and volunteer time valued at \$1.5 million. Responds to 1,500 referrals, including MC Department of Health and Human Services, MC Housing Opportunities Commission, MCPS, Interfaith Works, and MC Coalition for the Homeless. Households served have an average family income of \$14,000. Donated items, are distributed directly to individuals in need. High quality standards maintained by A Wider Circle in furnishing homes preserve dignity of recipients. 	
Strength of Proposal <i>(clear description; measurable and relevant outcomes, including results achieved to date; achieved outcomes; integration/coordination with other nonprofits and County services; clear budget description; plan for future funding):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposal clearly communicates the significant impact made by A Wider Circle and the extent to which it serves as a resource to individuals-in-need and Montgomery County non-profits and agencies dealing with housing issues. A Wider Circle presented three very similar, but separate proposals for different aspects of the Neighbor-to-Neighbor program. It was unclear to the reviewers that the proposals were for separate programs, rather than different line items of the same program. 	
Cost-benefit analysis <i>(cost of service or activities; impact on recipient relative to cost):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> With the exception of beds, all items distributed are donated and collected without charge by A Wider Circle. Part of funding request is for salary of Director of Agency Partnerships, whose role is to respond to increasing number of referrals from agencies serving clients across Montgomery County. Low overhead (2%) and effective fundraising and use of volunteers enables a Wider Circle to effectively leverage County Funds (12% of overall funding). 	
Strength of organization <i>(organizational capacity; how long has agency delivered proposed or similar services and/or received public funds; number of staff, volunteers and partner organizations in program; how have they leveraged non-county government funding; capacity to carry out project):</i> <p style="margin-top: 10px;">A Wider Circle was founded in 2001. It is successful in its fundraising, is well-capitalized and had over \$1 million in cash and cash equivalents at the end of last year. It leverages public funds well; only 17% of its funding comes from government sources (12% from Montgomery County). At the same time, substantially all of the County agencies and non-profits involved in housing depend on A Wider Circle. In 2015, A Wider Circle had more than 15,000 volunteers.</p>	

Montgomery County Council

FY17 Evaluative Comments Information Sheet

Name of Organization: A Wider Circle, Inc. 2	
Category/Program Area: Established; Basic Need	Amount Requested: \$104,000
Project Description: Collect and redistribute donated items to furnish the homes of Montgomery County residents living in poverty.	
Public benefit <i>(identified and demonstrated need; target population well served by proposal; project justification):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2015, collected and distributed 1.6 million pounds of goods that might otherwise have gone to landfill. Furnishes the homes of 5,550 County adults and children, with furnishings and volunteer time valued at \$1.5 million. Responds to 1,500 referrals, including MC Department of Health and Human Services, MC Housing Opportunities Commission, MCPS, Interfaith Works, and MC Coalition for the Homeless. Households served have an average family income of \$14,000. Donated items, are distributed directly to individuals in need. High quality standards maintained by A Wider Circle in furnishing their homes preserve dignity of recipients. 	
Strength of Proposal <i>(clear description; measurable and relevant outcomes, including results achieved to date; achieved outcomes; integration/coordination with other nonprofits and County services; clear budget description; plan for future funding):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposal clearly communicates the significant impact made by A Wider Circle and the extent to which it serves a resource to individuals-in-need and Montgomery County non-profits and agencies dealing with housing issues. A Wider Circle presented three very similar, but separate proposals for different aspects of the Neighbor-to-Neighbor program. It was unclear to the reviewers that the proposals were for separate programs, rather than different line items of the same program. 	
Cost-benefit analysis <i>(cost of service or activities; impact on recipient relative to cost):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> With the exception of beds, all items distributed are donated and collected without charge by A Wider Circle. Low overhead (2%) and effective fundraising and use of volunteers enables a Wider Circle to effectively leverage County Funds (12% of overall funding). 	
Strength of organization <i>(organizational capacity; how long has agency delivered proposed or similar services and/or received public funds; number of staff, volunteers and partner organizations in program; how have they leveraged non-county government funding; capacity to carry out project):</i> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">A Wider Circle was founded in 2001. It is successful in its fundraising, is well-capitalized and had over \$1 million in cash and cash equivalents at the end of last year. It leverages public funds well; only 17% of its funding comes from government sources (12% from Montgomery County). At the same time, substantially all of the County agencies and non-profits involved in housing depend on A Wider Circle. In 2015, A Wider Circle had more than 15,000 volunteers.</p>	

Montgomery County Council
FY17 Evaluative Comments Information Sheet

Name of Organization: A Wider Circle, Inc. 3	
Category/Program Area: Established; Economic/Workforce Development	Amount Requested: \$72,500
Project Description: Provide comprehensive job readiness support, including job coaches, classes, and professional attire to Montgomery County residents living in poverty.	
Public benefit <i>(identified and demonstrated need; target population well served by proposal; project justification):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residents gain independence and stability that employment brings Residents have the opportunity to participate in and support a strong and vibrant economy 	
Strength of Proposal <i>(clear description; measurable and relevant outcomes, including results achieved to date; achieved outcomes; integration/coordination with other nonprofits and County services; clear budget description; plan for future funding):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding would supplement 3 positions that would support the implementation of work-readiness training. Last year they served 60 participants in the week long boot camp with 100% receiving employment. Leveraged volunteer coaches. Proposal would be strengthened with a projection of anticipated participants, training schedule and curriculum details. 	
Cost-benefit analysis <i>(cost of service or activities; impact on recipient relative to cost):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding would support a coordinated approach to all work-readiness activities. Training, attire and accessories to 500 participants Positive success in programming Matching funds to sustain positions 	
Strength of organization <i>(organizational capacity; how long has agency delivered proposed or similar services and/or received public funds; number of staff, volunteers and partner organizations in program; how have they leveraged non-county government funding; capacity to carry out project):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partners with established county nonprofits and government agencies to provide professional development and employment support Utilizes professional volunteers at many levels Funding from foundations, corporations, individuals and events. Part of federal campaigns 	

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Name of Organization: A Wider Circle, Inc. 4	
Category/Program Area: Established; Basic Need	Amount Requested: \$100,000
Project Description: Enable A Wider Circle to collect donations of furniture and home goods from 2,000 Montgomery County households.	
<p>Public benefit <i>(identified and demonstrated need; target population well served by proposal; project justification)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2015, collected and distributed 1.6 million pounds of goods that might otherwise have gone to landfill from 2,000 households. Furnishes the homes of more than 5,000 County adults and children, with furnishings and volunteer time valued at \$1.5 million. Responds to 1,500 referrals, including MC Department of Health and Human Services, MC Housing Opportunities Commission, MCPS, Interfaith Works, and MC Coalition for the Homeless. Households served have an average family income of \$14,000. Donated items, are distributed directly to individuals in need. High quality standards maintained by A Wider Circle in furnishing their homes preserve dignity of recipients. 	
<p>Strength of Proposal <i>(clear description; measurable and relevant outcomes, including results achieved to date; achieved outcomes; integration/coordination with other nonprofits and County services; clear budget description; plan for future funding):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposal clearly communicates the significant impact made by A Wider Circle and the extent to which it serves a resource to individuals-in-need and Montgomery County non-profits and agencies dealing with housing issues. A Wider Circle presented three very similar, but separate proposals for different aspects of the Neighbor-to-Neighbor program. It was unclear to the reviewers that the proposals were for separate programs, rather than different line items of the same program. This proposal, in particular is difficult to distinguish from Proposal #2 and appears to be a request for a separate source of funding for the same activity – collections. 	
<p>Cost-benefit analysis <i>(cost of service or activities; impact on recipient relative to cost):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> With the exception of beds, all items distributed are donated and collected without charge by A Wider Circle. Low overhead (2%) and effective fundraising and use of volunteers enables a Wider Circle to effectively leverage County Funds (12% of overall funding). 	
<p>Strength of organization <i>(organizational capacity; how long has agency delivered proposed or similar services and/or received public funds; number of staff, volunteers and partner organizations in program; how have they leveraged non-county government funding; capacity to carry out project):</i></p> <p>A Wider Circle was founded in 2001. It is successful in its fundraising, is well-capitalized and had over \$1 million in cash and cash equivalents at the end of last year. It leverages public funds well; only 17% of its funding comes from government sources (12% from Montgomery County). At the same time, substantially all of the County agencies and non-profits involved in housing depend on A Wider Circle. In 2015, A Wider Circle had more than 15,000 volunteers.</p>	

**Montgomery County Council
FY17 Evaluative Comments Information Sheet**

Name of Organization: A Wider Circle – County Executive	
Category/Program Area: Established; Basic Need; Large Capital	Amount Requested: \$50,000
Project Description: Support the renovation of recently purchased headquarters, increasing capacity to serve Montgomery County residents and expand programming	
Public benefit <i>(identified and demonstrated need; target population well served by proposal; project justification):</i> <div style="text-align: center;">- See HHS Committee Packet of April 19, 2016</div>	
Strength of Proposal <i>(clear description; measurable and relevant outcomes, including results achieved to date; achieved outcomes; integration/coordination with other nonprofits and County services; clear budget description; plan for future funding):</i> 	
Cost-benefit analysis <i>(cost of service or activities; impact on recipient relative to cost):</i> 	
Strength of organization <i>(organizational capacity; how long has agency delivered proposed or similar services and/or received public funds; number of staff, volunteers and partner organizations in program; how have they leveraged non-county government funding; capacity to carry out project):</i> 	

Montgomery County Council

FY17 Evaluative Comments Information Sheet

Name of Organization: Adventist Community Services of Greater Washington, Inc.	
Category/Program Area: Established; Basic Need	Amount Requested: \$20,000
Project Description: To provide November and December holiday meals to economically vulnerable community members as part of the ACSGW Thrive Initiative.	
Public benefit <i>(identified and demonstrated need; target population well served by proposal; project justification):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> More than 6,000 low income residents receive holiday baskets. Adventist Community Services of Greater Washington, Inc. (ACSGW) distributes holiday food baskets as part of a network of more than 20 agencies that coordinate food distribution by need and zip code. This Holiday Giving Project is for zip code 20912 (Takoma Park). The goal is to reach 1,600 families next year. 	
Strength of Proposal <i>(clear description; measurable and relevant outcomes, including results achieved to date; achieved outcomes; integration/coordination with other nonprofits and County services; clear budget description; plan for future funding):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The organizations coordinates with many groups to receive donations. ACSGW serves all eligible families within zip code 20912. The application would have been clearer if it had explained the critical role of the Coordination Council in assigning families to ACSGW. More focus on the impact and participation for the Holiday Giving Project, such as volunteer participation and the relationship to the Thrive Initiative, would be helpful. The organization should continue to addresses its challenges such as the surprisingly high “no show” rate for holiday pick-ups. 	
Cost-benefit analysis <i>(cost of service or activities; impact on recipient relative to cost):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> While ACSGW is requesting almost half of its project budget in this proposal, it receives significant in-kind food contributions resulting from major food drives by faith based and other groups, including the Fabrangén Cheder Group and School and 4H clubs. Funds raised are used to buy turkeys and chickens for holiday meals. The total budget is for food only; the \$45,000 does not include salaries. Thanksgiving baskets cost about \$30 per family; December holiday baskets cost about \$25 per family. The organization continues to strengthen its financial capacity and doubled food donations this year. ACSGW is starting a newsletter and implementing other strategies to increase donations. 	
Strength of organization <i>(organizational capacity; how long has agency delivered proposed or similar services and/or received public funds; number of staff, volunteers and partner organizations in program; how have they leveraged non-county government funding; capacity to carry out project):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thanksgiving giving program has been ongoing for more than 15 years; December holiday baskets were added beginning in 2013. The organization is committed to meeting the holiday food needs of all low income residents in the 20912 zip code. ACSGW is a committed partner of the Coordination Council. 	

Montgomery County Council

FY17 Evaluative Comments Information Sheet

Name of Organization: Adventist Community Services of Greater Washington, Inc. – County Executive	
Category/Program Area: Established; Youth Development	Amount Requested: \$50,000
Project Description: Provide a free summer camp program for culturally, economically, and geographically disadvantaged youth of the East Montgomery County community.	
Public benefit <i>(identified and demonstrated need; target population well served by proposal; project justification):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The targeted audience, disadvantaged youth (ages 6-16), will receive instruction and participate in activities during the MCPS summer break. The proposal cites the summer drop in retention that is particularly acute for students who have limited access to information sources and learning activities when away from school. The combination of learning and recreational activities will provide a beneficial summer alternative for these at-risk youth in East County. 	
Strength of Proposal <i>(clear description; measurable and relevant outcomes, including results achieved to date; achieved outcomes; integration/coordination with other nonprofits and County services; clear budget description; plan for future funding):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project is in formative stage and it would be stronger if the site of the new program were identified. The proposal provides measurable outcomes based on pre/post testing and instructor observations. The proposal intends to expand existing collaborations into a contiguous section of the East County area. ACSGW has run similar programs successfully in the past 2 years. 	
Cost-benefit analysis <i>(cost of service or activities; impact on recipient relative to cost):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The program will serve up to 100 youth with a \$50,000 grant. The participating youth are engaged in activities that increase their knowledge and help them maintain learning skills through the summer. 	
Strength of organization <i>(organizational capacity; how long has agency delivered proposed or similar services and/or received public funds; number of staff, volunteers and partner organizations in program; how have they leveraged non-county government funding; capacity to carry out project):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ACSGW has over 30 years of experience working in collaborative partnerships in disadvantaged communities. The organization partners with other non-profits to plan and find funding, volunteers and in-kind contributions to their programs. ACSGW plans to reach out to Adventist Healthcare, White Oak as it is developed for future funding. 	

Montgomery County Council
FY17 Evaluative Comments Information Sheet

Name of Organization: African Immigrant and Refugee Foundation Inc.	
Category/Program Area: Established; Youth Development	Amount Requested: \$70,202
Project Description: Provide critical services to students of African descent to advance them academically, emotionally and socially through mentoring and tutoring.	
Public benefit <i>(identified and demonstrated need; target population well served by proposal; project justification):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The program serves a high need population of recent African immigrants, many of whom are coming from troubled countries and backgrounds. This AIRF activity is called the Catching Up Program (CUP). Student participants through mentoring and tutoring address questions of transition and identity in the American culture in general and Montgomery County in particular. The program helps fulfill the County's commitments to support and promote diversity. 	
Strength of Proposal <i>(clear description; measurable and relevant outcomes, including results achieved to date; achieved outcomes; integration/coordination with other nonprofits and County services; clear budget description; plan for future funding):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The application makes a strong case for the need to help youth and their families who have recently arrived from Africa, many of whom come from troubled countries and economies. The African Club approach and one-on-one mentoring and tutoring ensure high involvement by the AIRF staff, school teachers/sponsors and volunteers. The planned African Immigrant Youth Conference has consistently drawn 200 participants. The application would have been stronger if the African Club aspect of the CUP would have been included and discussed in the document. 	
Cost-benefit analysis <i>(cost of service or activities; impact on recipient relative to cost):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AIRF is addressing a high need group that is underserved in the County and as such is providing needed services and benefits. The benefits of the program are not only assistance to MC youth in transition into the US and County but also maintaining and strengthening the link to participants' African heritage. The cost per participant (75) for the school year program is just over \$1000 with requested county funding at 93% of the total cost of \$75,538. 	
Strength of organization <i>(organizational capacity; how long has agency delivered proposed or similar services and/or received public funds; number of staff, volunteers and partner organizations in program; how have they leveraged non-county government funding; capacity to carry out project):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AIRF has provided services in Montgomery County since 2000 and the organization has reported important achievements. Ninety percent of youth participants described increased language skills and 60% of the high school students reported a 3.0 or better GPA. Similarly, 75% of the middle school students reported 3.0 GPA or better. The program works closely with and provides its service to high school students at Montgomery Blair and Springbrook High Schools and will expand into Northwood High School in the 2016/2017 school year. It will serve students at Argyle Middle School and hopes to add one more Middle School within Montgomery County in the upcoming year. 	

Montgomery County Council

FY17 Evaluative Comments Information Sheet

Name of Organization: African Women Council Inc. 1	
Category/Program Area: Established; Basic Need	Amount Requested: \$9,450
Project Description: Proactively engage African immigrants in the educational, financial, health and electoral systems and processes to enhance their quality of life	
Public benefit <i>(identified and demonstrated need; target population well served by proposal; project justification):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> African Women Council's (AWC) request is for their FY17 rent at The Non-Profit Village in Rockville the space is easily accessible to clients from across the county the space allows AWC to collaborate and coordinate with other area nonprofits and to share best practices 	
Strength of Proposal <i>(clear description; measurable and relevant outcomes, including results achieved to date; achieved outcomes; integration/coordination with other nonprofits and County services; clear budget description; plan for future funding):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> see next evaluation 	
Cost-benefit analysis <i>(cost of service or activities; impact on recipient relative to cost):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> see next evaluation 	
Strength of organization <i>(organizational capacity; how long has agency delivered proposed or similar services and/or received public funds; number of staff, volunteers and partner organizations in program; how have they leveraged non-county government funding; capacity to carry out project):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> see next evaluation 	

Montgomery County Council

FY17 Evaluative Comments Information Sheet

Name of Organization: African Women Council Inc. 2	
Category/Program Area: Established; Basic Need	Amount Requested: \$20,113
Project Description: Help African immigrants navigate educational, employment, financial, healthcare, and housing systems to raise quality of life and become engaged residents	
Public benefit <i>(identified and demonstrated need; target population well served by proposal; project justification):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> African Women Council (AWC) is requesting funds for an expanded workforce development program, helping African immigrants translate their educational background and professional expertise from their country of origin to jobs in the US Through workshops and individual counseling, AWC addresses employment laws and workplace culture in the US, resume writing, interview skills, conducting a job search etc. based at The Nonprofit Village in Rockville and easily accessible, AWC serves African immigrants from across the county 	
Strength of Proposal <i>(clear description; measurable and relevant outcomes, including results achieved to date; achieved outcomes; integration/coordination with other nonprofits and County services; clear budget description; plan for future funding):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the new focus is in response to both an identified client need and a possibly overlooked county resource, a potentially untapped labor pool the goal is to replicate similar programs, successfully serving other immigrant populations outcomes will include assessing acquired job skills and knowledge there is good collaboration with other county agencies and with area employers the proposal would have been strengthened by a clearer description of the revamped employment piece and how it replaces or fits into the organization's existing programs, the number of clients served by the organization overall, and by the availability of a complete set of financial statements 	
Cost-benefit analysis <i>(cost of service or activities; impact on recipient relative to cost):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the new program will serve 36 individual clients and approximately 150 more through a series of workshops funds will be used towards salaries, including the Executive Director and program coordinator, and other program costs. These positions are presently unpaid, currently all staff are volunteers the organization has less than \$500 in reserve at this time and limited income from memberships and individual donations 	
Strength of organization <i>(organizational capacity; how long has agency delivered proposed or similar services and/or received public funds; number of staff, volunteers and partner organizations in program; how have they leveraged non-county government funding; capacity to carry out project):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the organization has been providing services in the county since 2005, helping to address the unique needs of the African immigrant community through case management services there are plans to grow and diversify revenue, however AWC currently faces challenges in regard to organizational capacity, strategic planning and fundraising some pro-bono fundraising support is in place, as well as a Board that could offer significant guidance towards achieving both stability and sustainability 	

Montgomery County Council

FY17 Evaluative Comments Information Sheet

Name of Organization: Aligarh Muslim University Alumni Association of North America, Inc.	
Category/Program Area: Newer; Youth Development	Amount Requested: \$1,500
Project Description: Provide resources, guidance and assistance to minority and underprivileged youth and young adults to pursue college education and obtain internships.	
Public benefit <i>(identified and demonstrated need; target population well served by proposal; project justification):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The program is geared towards college Admissions and Internship seminars for minority, underprivileged and immigrant youth of Montgomery County, with a focus on African, South Asian and Arab descent youth. The seminars will provide guidance, support, and mentoring in how to apply to college and obtain internships. 	
Strength of Proposal <i>(clear description; measurable and relevant outcomes, including results achieved to date; achieved outcomes; integration/coordination with other nonprofits and County services; clear budget description; plan for future funding):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The organization proposes to hold a number of seminars for 600 youth on how to apply for college. Additional information on the actual program content, how the seminars are advertised, how students are selected or encouraged to attend, and how they will follow up with attendees to get outcomes data, would have been useful information to have in the proposal. 	
Cost-benefit analysis <i>(cost of service or activities; impact on recipient relative to cost):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The total budget for the program is \$3,000 but seeking \$1,500 from the County Council. The proposal has listed fundraising activities of raising funds from members, conducting fundraising in the Montgomery County community, and grants from public and private foundations without any explanatory information on the status of these fundraising efforts. 	
Strength of organization <i>(organizational capacity; how long has agency delivered proposed or similar services and/or received public funds; number of staff, volunteers and partner organizations in program; how have they leveraged non-county government funding; capacity to carry out project):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> According to the proposal, the organization has successfully held similar seminars for Montgomery County youth in prior years, benefitting over 1200 students. The proposal would have been stronger with a more detailed description of the organization and its work in Montgomery County. 	

Montgomery County Council
FY17 Evaluative Comments Information Sheet

Name of Organization: Am Kolel, Inc.	
Category/Program Area: Established; Community Development	Amount Requested: \$45,000
Project Description: The Center for Inter-religious Studies will foster understanding among residents and faith communities through in-depth courses, dialogue groups and programs.	
Public benefit <i>(identified and demonstrated need; target population well served by proposal; project justification):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through the Center for Inter-religious Studies (CIS), Am Kolel aims to develop understanding and build trust among County religious communities by offering low-cost classes and other opportunities for dialogue. • The CIS will support existing efforts at bridge building among faith communities. • They plan to work with both traditional and social media to publicize their programs and to educate the public. • The CIS is devoted to “building a more peaceful and trusting community.” 	
Strength of Proposal <i>(clear description; measurable and relevant outcomes, including results achieved to date; achieved outcomes; integration/coordination with other nonprofits and County services; clear budget description; plan for future funding):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Am Kolel has enlisted the participation of leaders from other interfaith groups, non-profits, and academia. • This proposal would be strengthened if a plan were developed for including immigrant communities as well as creating a sliding fee scale so that the programs would be affordable to all. • They express an interest in working with MCPS, but need to further develop this relationship. • The proposal is for five courses of 6 sessions each, with a goal of enrolling 300 students total. Am Kolel/CIS may want to consider beginning with a pilot course, evaluating the initial effort, and then growing the program. The proposal would be stronger if they could demonstrate a track record, and have an established partnership or host organization/venue in place. • The outcome description of reaching 10,000 residents through the broader outreach program seems ambitious for a new venture. 	
Cost-benefit analysis <i>(cost of service or activities; impact on recipient relative to cost):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposal requests \$45,000, slightly more than half of the total program. • Am Kolel plans to solicit additional funds from foundations and other donors 	
Strength of organization <i>(organizational capacity; how long has agency delivered proposed or similar services and/or received public funds; number of staff, volunteers and partner organizations in program; how have they leveraged non-county government funding; capacity to carry out project):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Am Kolel is a Jewish community established in 1990. Their community is active in interfaith work, serving on D.C. area interfaith boards, hosting interfaith events, and representing the Jewish community at other faith based events. 	

Montgomery County Council

FY17 Evaluative Comments Information Sheet

Name of Organization: Am Koleh, Inc, - County Executive	
Category/Program Area: Newer; Older Adults/Disabilities	Amount Requested: \$12,500
Project Description: The Visitors Project for People with Dementia will provide regular friendly visits to lonely low income nursing home residents in Montgomery County.	
Public benefit <i>(identified and demonstrated need; target population well served by proposal; project justification):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This project targets low income nursing home residents who have dementia. The participants will receive personal visits and contact from trained volunteers. Meaningful interaction and contact is an important factor in quality of life for nursing home residents. No other organization currently targets this population in the county. 	
Strength of Proposal <i>(clear description; measurable and relevant outcomes, including results achieved to date; achieved outcomes; integration/coordination with other nonprofits and County services; clear budget description; plan for future funding):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project seems to be in early planning stage. The proposal would be stronger if specific sites were identified. The project description is clear and measurable; outcomes include observation by volunteers and feedback from clients and nursing home staff. The budget is clear. Am Koleh has connected with faith-based and non-profit organizations, the Montgomery County programs serving elderly and disabled citizens, and nursing homes, including them in the planning process. Am Koleh is already working for future funding. They have identified foundation sources and are planning several fundraising avenues that will be implemented as the project develops. 	
Cost-benefit analysis <i>(cost of service or activities; impact on recipient relative to cost):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The program budget is \$46,900 and the county portion is \$12,500 about 26% of the budget. The target population is vulnerable and has few resources available to them. This program will provide contact and relief that is not otherwise available. 	
Strength of organization <i>(organizational capacity; how long has agency delivered proposed or similar services and/or received public funds; number of staff, volunteers and partner organizations in program; how have they leveraged non-county government funding; capacity to carry out project):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Am Koleh has a 25-year history of work on social needs of our community. Am Koleh has received a county grant in the past and identified means to continue the project without county funding. This organization shows a well-developed practice of collaboration and partnering to get jobs done. Am Koleh uses networks to leverage both funds and volunteers for their programs. 	

Montgomery County Council
FY17 Evaluative Comments Information Sheet

Name of Organization: Asbury Foundation, Inc.	
Category/Program Area: Established; Youth Development	Amount Requested: \$10,000
Project Description: Develop intergenerational relationships with and serve the needs of at-risk children, youth, and families through the Gaithersburg Beloved Community Initiative.	
Public benefit <i>(identified and demonstrated need; target population well served by proposal; project justification):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposal aims to serve two groups: 1) Gaithersburg Elementary “at risk” 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders, who will complete a 5 session hands on experience and two downtown field trips; 2) individuals released from Clarksburg Penitentiary back into Gaithersburg; both groups will benefit through connection with an older resident mentor. A volunteer part-time coordinator role will be taken over by a salaried program coordinator who is fluent in Spanish to bridge age, language, and cultural gaps between Asbury residents and at-risk youth in order to foster relationships. The application would be stronger if it clearly documented the identified need for the Beloved Community Initiative as well as the demographic characteristics of the population served. 	
Strength of Proposal <i>(clear description; measurable and relevant outcomes, including results achieved to date; achieved outcomes; integration/coordination with other nonprofits and County services; clear budget description; plan for future funding):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outcomes described are relevant and measurable; however, information regarding previous outcomes is limited and is not quantifiable. The application would be stronger if it explained how language and cultural gaps between youth and residents are bridged by the program coordinator in order to forge relationships. Additionally, inclusion of a sustainability plan for continuing to fund student field trips to DC and the Nature Photography would have benefited this application. The Program provides services very similar to those of other organizations in the same geographic area; therefore, the application would be stronger if it discussed the program elements that make the Beloved Community Initiative unique. 	
Cost-benefit analysis <i>(cost of service or activities; impact on recipient relative to cost):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The program would serve 20 at-risk youth and 5 recently incarcerated individuals. A total of \$10,000 (12% of program costs) is requested to partially support the salary of a part-time coordinator position and 3 field trips and to fully cover a Nature Photography Artist and the restorative justice project; the part-time coordinator position would serve 200 people, 20 of whom would benefit from the grant; the total program cost is \$81,409. 	
Strength of organization <i>(organizational capacity; how long has agency delivered proposed or similar services and/or received public funds; number of staff, volunteers and partner organizations in program; how have they leveraged non-county government funding; capacity to carry out project):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asbury utilizes volunteers for many of its programs. The organization has collaborations with schools and public and private organizations to meet the needs of Asbury residents and the community. Asbury has a diverse funding pool and leverages financial support through collaborations with a school, places of worship, internal and external gifts, and in-kind donations (books, supplies, and meals). 	

Montgomery County Council FY17 Evaluative Comments Information Sheet

Name of Organization: Asian American LEAD	
Category/Program Area: Established; Youth Development	Amount Requested: \$25,109
Project Description: Provides career counseling to low income and underserved Asian Pacific American community college youth.	
<p>Public benefit <i>(identified and demonstrated need; target population well served by proposal; project justification):</i> Asian American Lead (AAL) supports youth at Montgomery College in completing an Associate's degree or transferring to a four-year college institution within three years of their enrollment into the College Career Coaching Program (CCCP). Youth are matched to a career coach based on a career assessment. The pair develops at least 3 SMART (specific, measureable, attainable, realistic, timely) goals with AAL staff at the beginning of each semester. Pairs are required to connect at least four times each semester.</p>	
<p>Strength of Proposal <i>(clear description; measurable and relevant outcomes, including results achieved to date; achieved outcomes; integration/coordination with other nonprofits and County services; clear budget description; plan for future funding):</i> AAL targets 87.3% of Asian Pacific Americans (APA) who do not graduate within 3 years at Montgomery College. The AAL College Career Program (CCP) connects youth to existing resources with career assessment tools. Research suggests that Asian American students encounter difficulties in seeking advice from academic counselors at community colleges. Other research points to student perceptions of racism from faculty in such institutions. AAL notes that the CCP will support those youth in addressing these challenges, since many are low income and many are first generation students with limited access to supportive resources. It is not clear from the proposal what strategies they are employing in coping with these perceptions and what is being done at the college level to diffuse them.</p>	
<p>Cost-benefit analysis <i>(cost of service or activities; impact on recipient relative to cost):</i> AAL describes their Benevon fundraising model as an effective one, since it has facilitated the cultivation of meaningful relationships with potential funders, while raising awareness and securing monetary pledges for years to come. They refer to 33 members who have pledged to donate at least \$1,000 each year for 5 years, with some members currently donating \$5,000 to \$10,000. The grant request is for approximately 37% of the program cost. Due to the success of this fundraising model and the substantial reserve in the organization's budget, the proposal would be strengthened with more explanation on the specific need for this level of funding from the county for this grant.</p>	
<p>Strength of organization <i>(organizational capacity; how long has agency delivered proposed or similar services and/or received public funds; number of staff, volunteers and partner organizations in program; how have they leveraged non-county government funding; capacity to carry out project):</i> AAL says that they work to maintain a healthy reserve of \$1 million to ensure that programs can be sustained for at least one year. To develop the program model, AAL's Programs Manager researched the needs of the local APA population of Montgomery College and designed the program using best practices for programs at Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander serving Institutions, existing programs at Montgomery College, and other Community Colleges. More specificity in the benefits for youth, i.e., "an improved workforce and educated community" would add explanation to the proposal.</p>	

Montgomery County Council
FY17 Evaluative Comments Information Sheet

Name of Organization: Asian American LEAD – County Executive	
Category/Program Area: Established; Youth Development	Amount Requested: \$60,000
Project Description: Support low-income and underserved Asian Pacific American youth with educational empowerment, identity, and leadership through after-school, summer and mentoring programs.	
Public benefit <i>(identified and demonstrated need; target population well served by proposal; project justification):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See evaluation on prior page 	
Strength of Proposal <i>(clear description; measurable and relevant outcomes, including results achieved to date; achieved outcomes; integration/coordination with other nonprofits and County services; clear budget description; plan for future funding):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See evaluation on prior page 	
Cost-benefit analysis <i>(cost of service or activities; impact on recipient relative to cost):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See evaluation on prior page 	
Strength of organization <i>(organizational capacity; how long has agency delivered proposed or similar services and/or received public funds; number of staff, volunteers and partner organizations in program; how have they leveraged non-county government funding; capacity to carry out project):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See evaluation on prior page 	

Montgomery County Council
FY17 Evaluative Comments Information Sheet

Name of Organization: Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center	
Category/Program Area: Established; Basic Need	Amount Requested: \$45,000
Project Description: Provide legal assistance to low-income Asian immigrants seeking immigration relief.	
Public benefit <i>(identified and demonstrated need; target population well served by proposal; project justification):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • serves growing county Asian population, including victims of domestic abuse, seniors, etc • population is low income and with limited English proficiency • provides services through workshops, individual consultation clinics, and direct legal representation, also operates Multilingual Legal Helpline • primarily serves Gaithersburg area currently with two walk-in clinics, but there are plans to expand into other areas of county 	
Strength of Proposal <i>(clear description; measurable and relevant outcomes, including results achieved to date; achieved outcomes; integration/coordination with other nonprofits and County services; clear budget description; plan for future funding):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • about half of clients will be served through workshops and the dissemination of information, and about half through direct consultation, referral or representation • outcomes tracked include number served and status of immigration relief • good collaboration with other nonprofits and agencies, member of area task force that addresses immigration issues and member of network of legal providers • proposal would have benefited from clearer client/budget breakdown description across all Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center (APALRC) jurisdictions (MD, DC, and VA) 	
Cost-benefit analysis <i>(cost of service or activities; impact on recipient relative to cost):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • will serve approximately 220 Montgomery County residents in FY17 • in FY15 about 47% of cases were immigration-related, about 20% family law related, and the rest addressed financial assistance, housing, healthcare, crime, etc • total budget is \$125,186, county request is 36% of budget • funds will be used towards salaries of Executive Director, three staff attorneys, interpreter services, rent and other program costs • average cost per client is \$569, county contribution would provide funding for legal support for approximately 80 residents 	
Strength of organization <i>(organizational capacity; how long has agency delivered proposed or similar services and/or received public funds; number of staff, volunteers and partner organizations in program; how have they leveraged non-county government funding; capacity to carry out project):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The APALRC was founded in 1998 and began serving Montgomery County in 2004 • in addition to bilingual staff attorneys, utilizes bilingual student interns (college and law school) and pro bono attorneys • diverse revenue stream includes government funding, foundations, corporate and individual donations and earned income, there is no cost to clients. Total organizational budget is \$593,852 	

Montgomery County Council
FY17 Evaluative Comments Information Sheet

Name of Organization: Asian/Pacific Islander Domestic Violence Resource Project	
Category/Program Area: Established; Basic Need	Amount Requested: \$25,190
Project Description: Provide direct case management services to Asian/Pacific Islander survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault in Montgomery County.	
Public benefit <i>(identified and demonstrated need; target population well served by proposal; project justification):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multiple studies indicate that a high percentage (ranging between 21-55%) of Asian women report physical and/or sexual violence. Shame often prevents disclosure of the abuse, as well as the lack of culturally and linguistically specific services. Domestic Violence Resource Project (DVRP) primarily provides case management services to low-income immigrants with limited English proficiency. DVRP is the only pan-Asian domestic violence and sexual assault program serving Montgomery County. 	
Strength of Proposal <i>(clear description; measurable and relevant outcomes, including results achieved to date; achieved outcomes; integration/coordination with other nonprofits and County services; clear budget description; plan for future funding):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clear description of need. Provides services at Family Justice Center once a week and collaborates with other nonprofits. 100% of Board contributed to the organization last year; DVRP is transitioning to a "Governance & Fundraising" Board focusing on corporate and individual giving. 	
Cost-benefit analysis <i>(cost of service or activities; impact on recipient relative to cost):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DVRP is requesting \$25,190 to serve approximately 25 clients in the county. The average cost of \$1000 per client reflects the high number of hours that goes into providing services of this nature. Grant would cover 12% of salary and benefits for Survivor Services Program Manager; 30% of salary and benefits for the Case Manager, plus a small percentage of other direct costs. In the first half of FY16, 12 survivors received case management services, information, resources and referrals, 4 survivors received safety planning assistance, 16 survivors received referrals/resources for legal services. 	
Strength of organization <i>(organizational capacity; how long has agency delivered proposed or similar services and/or received public funds; number of staff, volunteers and partner organizations in program; how have they leveraged non-county government funding; capacity to carry out project):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Successful in obtaining a variety of public and private funding. Received county funding in FY16. Case managers are multi-lingual. Volunteers receive intensive and comprehensive training and undergo background checks. 	

Montgomery County Council

FY17 Evaluative Comments Information Sheet

Name of Organization: Asian-American Homeownership Counseling, Inc.	
Category/Program Area: Newer; Basic Need	Amount Requested: \$25,000
Project Description: Assistance with Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA), Earned Income Tax Credit, Property Tax Credit, and Energy Assistance programs.	
Public benefit <i>(identified and demonstrated need; target population well served by proposal; project justification):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the aftermath of the housing crisis and Great Recession, the organization effectively targets and helps county homeowners who were most adversely affected. Increased public benefits, and gains in income and purchasing power as clients improve their standard of living and provide multiplier effects in the economy through their purchases. Comprehensive counseling and financial literacy education strengthens county residents for all responsibilities associated with homeownership, not simply connecting people with housing. 	
Strength of Proposal <i>(clear description; measurable and relevant outcomes, including results achieved to date; achieved outcomes; integration/coordination with other nonprofits and County services; clear budget description; plan for future funding):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effectively presents data showing need for services across a wide range of low- and moderate-income county households, especially those who stand to benefit most from free income tax filings, earned income tax credits, and energy assistance. First-year goals are substantive, measurable, and achievable. Information on clients served provides evidence-based data that effectively captures individuals served in terms of racial/ethnic, age-group, and gender served. 	
Cost-benefit analysis <i>(cost of service or activities; impact on recipient relative to cost):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grant request of \$25,000 represents 26 percent of total costs of this innovative program. One of few entities with resources and tools to link residents to Earned Income Tax Credits through volunteer tax preparation in order to help reduce poverty and to connect needy county residents to unanticipated income they were mostly unaware they were eligible to receive. 	
Strength of organization <i>(organizational capacity; how long has agency delivered proposed or similar services and/or received public funds; number of staff, volunteers and partner organizations in program; how have they leveraged non-county government funding; capacity to carry out project):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established in 2010, Asian-American Homeownership Counseling has received increased County Executive grants over the past 4 years. Is bolstered by 20 professional volunteers who have logged 1600 hours with an estimated value of \$25,000 in FY 2015. Has ample reserves and demonstrated increased capacity to achieve sustainability and growth. Demonstrates capacity to effectively provide and leverage educational and resource tools to help low- to moderate county households meet their basic needs. Provides services and benefits across the county through many community partnerships. Has demonstrated strong capacity for serving the widely diverse population in the county and for helping its diverse client base achieve self-sufficiency and improve their quality of life. 	

Montgomery County Council

FY17 Evaluative Comments Information Sheet

Name of Organization: Asian-American Homeownership Counseling, Inc. – County Executive	
Category/Program Area: Newer; Economic/Workforce Development	Amount Requested: \$55,978
Project Description: Provide foreclosure/eviction prevention services, homebuyer education and individual counseling, and financial capacity counseling including credit and money management.	
Public benefit <i>(identified and demonstrated need; target population well served by proposal; project justification):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need for services: “Maryland currently has the third largest number of foreclosures and mortgage delinquencies in the nation. Montgomery County has the third most within the state.” Target population: AAHC serves Montgomery County residents who are low-moderate income and/or are low/English proficiency immigrants. Services provided: AAHC helps homeowners prevent foreclosure, modify loans, negotiate with services/lenders, get homebuyer education, participate in one-on-one pre-purchase counseling, receive small dollar loans, and navigate reverse mortgages. 	
Strength of Proposal <i>(clear description; measurable and relevant outcomes, including results achieved to date; achieved outcomes; integration/coordination with other nonprofits and County services; clear budget description; plan for future funding):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community partners: AAHC works with a variety of community associations and governmental organizations to exchange client referrals, discussing housing policy issues, and provide education to clients Outcomes: Outcomes include foreclosure prevention, homebuyer education, and financial capability; some measurements are clear (80% of participants make payments on time and increase credit scores by at least 100 points) but targets are confusing because in some cases percentages cited in the measurement column don’t match percentages in target column. 	
Cost-benefit analysis <i>(cost of service or activities; impact on recipient relative to cost):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding will provide part of the salary for a manager to organize programs and services The \$55,978 funding request will cover 10% of the total program cost of \$537,950. Other funding sources include Federal grants, MD state, foundations, corporations, non-cash scholarships, in-kind donations, and individual donations. 	
Strength of organization <i>(organizational capacity; how long has agency delivered proposed or similar services and/or received public funds; number of staff, volunteers and partner organizations in program; how have they leveraged non-county government funding; capacity to carry out project):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mission: “empower and inspire immigrant communities to achieve and maintain the American dream of homeownership by providing counseling, education, tools, and resources... by placing individuals on the road to financial self-sufficiency.” Financial stability: The organization hopes to expand services through diverse funding sources such as property acquisition and rehabilitation programs, utilize interns and professional volunteers, fee-for-service programs, and soliciting more from foundations and corporations. 	

Montgomery County Council

FY17 Evaluative Comments Information Sheet

Name of Organization: Audubon Naturalist Society of the Central Atlantic States, Inc. 1	
Category/Program Area: Established; Basic Need	Amount Requested: \$25,616
Project Description: Provide “Unplug and Play-in-Nature” out-of-school-time programs for students in five MCPS Title I elementary schools for the 2016-17 school year.	
Public benefit <i>(identified and demonstrated need; target population well served by proposal; project justification):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addresses needs of low-income 3-5th grade youth for outdoor education and free afterschool programing. • Program will be provided at five Title 1 elementary schools during the 2016-2017 school year. 	
Strength of Proposal <i>(clear description; measurable and relevant outcomes, including results achieved to date; achieved outcomes; integration/coordination with other nonprofits and County services; clear budget description; plan for future funding):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This project employs a well-defined and proven curriculum that has been refined with elementary school audiences. • This project addresses practical needs of participants in terms of meals and transportation. • There is evidence of strong and continuous collaborations (10 years) with specific schools and a well-established sense of trust with school personnel. • The project has realistic expectations of parents and care givers. • The addition of stewardship action component this year and modifications to program assessment based on the previous year’s experience are well incorporated. • Outcomes measurements focus on cognitive data only while student journals offer opportunities for gathering affective outcome data that may be more appropriate to out-of-school learning and judging program success. • This program has been supported with a County Council Grant in FY15. 	
Cost-benefit analysis <i>(cost of service or activities; impact on recipient relative to cost):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request represents 70% of total budget (\$36,585). • Program serves 300 students for 18 hours of contact per student or \$6 per student contact hour. 	
Strength of organization <i>(organizational capacity; how long has agency delivered proposed or similar services and/or received public funds; number of staff, volunteers and partner organizations in program; how have they leveraged non-county government funding; capacity to carry out project):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong organization with capacity to administer grant funding. • Professional staff with skills in environmental education and out-of-school learning philosophy. • Organization has 100% Board participation. • Broad-based support both financial and in-kind through volunteers. 	

**Montgomery County Council
FY17 Evaluative Comments Information Sheet**

Name of Organization: Audubon Naturalist Society of the Central Atlantic States, Inc. 2	
Category/Program Area: Established; Youth Development	Amount Requested: \$15,939
Project Description: Provide an out-of-school-time enrichment program "Testing the Waters: Stream Science Training" for underserved high school youth.	
Public benefit <i>(identified and demonstrated need; target population well served by proposal; project justification):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This project addresses the needs of 36 underserved youth without access to other afterschool enrichment programs at three Down-County high schools. 	
Strength of Proposal <i>(clear description; measurable and relevant outcomes, including results achieved to date; achieved outcomes; integration/coordination with other nonprofits and County services; clear budget description; plan for future funding):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is a logical extension and application of organization's assets and abilities to address the needs of high school students who otherwise do not have access to environmental programming. • The project description demonstrates understanding of the need to pilot-test program with a small group of youth to test assumptions, logistics and outcomes. • Pairing youth with mentors is a strong point of this proposal and it would have been useful to have a clearer description of how mentors and youth will be paired as well as means to ensure that mentors reflect the diversity of the target youth population. • This proposal could be improved by providing clearer description of student projects and relationship to ANS web site, especially in terms of using this as a source of outcome data. 	
Cost-benefit analysis <i>(cost of service or activities; impact on recipient relative to cost):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request represents 47% of total project budget (\$34,121) which reflects a cost of \$948 per student. • Budget needs are reasonable, but proposal could be improved by clearer description of how many hours students will be in contact with instructors and mentors. 	
Strength of organization <i>(organizational capacity; how long has agency delivered proposed or similar services and/or received public funds; number of staff, volunteers and partner organizations in program; how have they leveraged non-county government funding; capacity to carry out project):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong organization with capacity to administer grants. • Professional staff with skills in environmental education and out-of-school learning philosophy. • Organization has 100% Board participation. • Broad-based support both financial and in-kind through volunteers. 	

Montgomery County Council
FY17 Evaluative Comments Information Sheet

Name of Organization: Ayuda	
Category/Program Area: Established; Basic Needs	Amount Requested: \$50,000
Project Description: Provide legal interpretation services to ensure equal access to justice for limited English-proficient and deaf community members.	
Public benefit <i>(identified and demonstrated need; target population well served by proposal; project justification):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clear articulation of need in Montgomery County (e.g., 140K limited English proficient). Though proposal demonstrates thorough understanding of needs in Montgomery County, it places these needs in the context of the DC-MD area. This proposal would be stronger if it clearly articulated the needs and services to be delivered to Montgomery County residents. 	
Strength of Proposal <i>(clear description; measurable and relevant outcomes, including results achieved to date; achieved outcomes; integration/coordination with other nonprofits and County services; clear budget description; plan for future funding):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ayuda has established many strong partnerships throughout the County to provide legal interpretation services without duplications/redundancies. Ayuda has demonstrated clear progress in providing services and building partnerships since it began to provide Montgomery County services in 2013. 	
Cost-benefit analysis <i>(cost of service or activities; impact on recipient relative to cost):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ayuda expects to serve 155 interpreter requests [75% of all requests] and to train 25 ASL interpreters in the <i>Language of Justice</i> certificate curriculum. This seems to provide good value in return for the requested \$50,000. <i>Language of Justice</i> is an Ayuda-developed program; disseminating this to others is cost-effective best practice. 	
Strength of organization <i>(organizational capacity; how long has agency delivered proposed or similar services and/or received public funds; number of staff, volunteers and partner organizations in program; how have they leveraged non-county government funding; capacity to carry out project):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ayuda and its board might serve itself and its clientele well if its leadership venture beyond “exploring the possibility of foundation funding . . . to ensure sustainable services,” given its reliance on the DC Bar and Montgomery County. It is possible, though not clear, that <i>Language of Justice</i> training courses outside of teaching volunteers (i.e., revenue-generating venture) is an obvious easy way to develop funds. 	

Montgomery County Council
FY17 Evaluative Comments Information Sheet

Name of Organization: Baby's Bounty MC, Inc. 1	
Category/Program Area: Newer; Children and Families	Amount Requested: \$45,000
Project Description: Provide health and wellness essentials for newborns born into poverty, homelessness and other disadvantaged situations.	
Public benefit <i>(identified and demonstrated need; target population well served by proposal; project justification):</i> <div style="text-align: center;">- Funding recommended through CDBG (\$39,519)</div>	
Strength of Proposal <i>(clear description; measurable and relevant outcomes, including results achieved to date; achieved outcomes; integration/coordination with other nonprofits and County services; clear budget description; plan for future funding):</i> 	
Cost-benefit analysis <i>(cost of service or activities; impact on recipient relative to cost):</i> 	
Strength of organization <i>(organizational capacity; how long has agency delivered proposed or similar services and/or received public funds; number of staff, volunteers and partner organizations in program; how have they leveraged non-county government funding; capacity to carry out project):</i> 	

Montgomery County Council

FY17 Evaluative Comments Information Sheet

Name of Organization: Baby's Bounty MC, Inc. 2	
Category/Program Area: Newer; Children & Families	Amount Requested: \$40,000
Project Description: Funding for an executive director to provide "bundles" of health and wellness essentials for newborns born into poverty, homelessness, and disadvantaged situations.	
Public benefit <i>(identified and demonstrated need; target population well served by proposal; project justification):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No other Montgomery County program provides this service. The wellness bundles include new car seats and portable cribs, on an as-needed basis, as well as diapers and other baby essentials. Families must be WIC eligible. Requests for baby bundles come from over 35 service agencies. 	
Strength of Proposal <i>(clear description; measurable and relevant outcomes, including results achieved to date; achieved outcomes; integration/coordination with other nonprofits and County services; clear budget description; plan for future funding):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposal is clear that this is a new organization with a worthy mission and that it is at a turning point. It recognizes its value to the community and its need to grow both in meeting additional needs and in capacity. It may be difficult to reach its goal of expanding the number of bundles provided to 960 in the next fiscal year, based on past distributions. Seeking funding for an executive director appears to be a good strategy for the organization. 	
Cost-benefit analysis <i>(cost of service or activities; impact on recipient relative to cost):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The organization currently relies on volunteers and in-kind services. The organization could provide more supplies if it had additional resources, both for programs and for operations. 	
Strength of organization <i>(organizational capacity; how long has agency delivered proposed or similar services and/or received public funds; number of staff, volunteers and partner organizations in program; how have they leveraged non-county government funding; capacity to carry out project):</i> <p>In operation for about 3 years, Baby's Bounty is an all-volunteer organization looking to hire its first paid Executive Director. The organization recognizes that it needs to strengthen its capacity, in leadership, continuity, fundraising and collaboration. The organization has ambitious goals to provide baby essentials for 960 newborns. In 2015, the organization served 201 newborns. As of June 2015, the organization had assets of about \$2,300. The organization was recently recommended for an FY17 CDBG award for \$39,519.</p>	

Montgomery County Council

FY17 Evaluative Comments Information Sheet

Name of Organization: Bethesda Cares, Inc. 1	
Category/Program Area: Established; Basic Need	Amount Requested: \$30,000
Project Description: Provide flow-through grants for low-income county residents who would otherwise live in unsafe conditions or be evicted/become homeless.	
Public benefit <i>(identified and demonstrated need; target population well served by proposal; project justification):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organization makes compelling case for funding: prevent homelessness, keep children in their school, focus on safe housing, etc. Serves entire county with most going to high impact poverty areas. Goals are clearly stated: funding goes to <i>rental</i> and utility assistance Bethesda Cares works with other organizations throughout the county with no info on # not served. 	
Strength of Proposal <i>(clear description; measurable and relevant outcomes, including results achieved to date; achieved outcomes; integration/coordination with other nonprofits and County services; clear budget description; plan for future funding):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinates with gov't and with other non-profit org throughout county #'s kept on served population with follow-up study every several years Might be beneficial to study the effect of maintaining small levels of funding in high-cost county Budget is reasonable and supported by large amount of volunteer effort Sustaining funding is based on contributions and gov't funding—from those who recognize need 	
Cost-benefit analysis <i>(cost of service or activities; impact on recipient relative to cost):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Difficult to conduct study of long-term benefit when such limited staffing, but clearly high-need pop. Low-cost of program if outcomes are reached. 	
Strength of organization <i>(organizational capacity; how long has agency delivered proposed or similar services and/or received public funds; number of staff, volunteers and partner organizations in program; how have they leveraged non-county government funding; capacity to carry out project):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Program has been operating since 1989 with heavy reliance on public funding and partnerships Strong participation from Board and large # of volunteers. Track record of being able to carry out its work. 	

Montgomery County Council
FY17 Evaluative Comments Information Sheet

Name of Organization: Bethesda Cares, Inc. 2	
Category/Program Area: Established; Health/Behavioral Health	Amount Requested: \$30,000
Project Description: Provide individual and group mental health services to homeless clients, as part of referring them to housing.	
Public benefit <i>(identified and demonstrated need; target population well served by proposal; project justification):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Homeless individuals, nearly all with mental and physical health problems, provide a clear target population that demands attention. Housing the homeless is a major contribution to the County goal of safe streets and neighborhoods. Housing the homeless conserves County resources since responding to the homeless with emergency services is costly, inefficient and often not effective. 	
Strength of Proposal <i>(clear description; measurable and relevant outcomes, including results achieved to date; achieved outcomes; integration/coordination with other nonprofits and County services; clear budget description; plan for future funding):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This established program has a track record of success in providing individual and group therapy in support of housing the homeless. The goal of the project is clear: providing services to homeless clients preparing them psychologically to choose to accept housing, often a precursor to a stable work-life and satisfying life. The means of the project is also clear. The organization is seeking partial funding of a psychiatrist necessary to provide services. 	
Cost-benefit analysis <i>(cost of service or activities; impact on recipient relative to cost):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing the homeless is enormously more cost efficient and cost-effective than responding to them on an emergency basis. Providing comprehensive physical and mental health services to the homeless increases the likelihood of favorable outcomes when compared to expensive ad hoc responses that do little to alter underlying problems. Housing the homeless contributes to their quality of life as well as that of members of the broader community. 	
Strength of organization <i>(organizational capacity; how long has agency delivered proposed or similar services and/or received public funds; number of staff, volunteers and partner organizations in program; how have they leveraged non-county government funding; capacity to carry out project):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The organization is financially stable; its net assets are equal to about 50% of its annual operating budget, a good ratio for a small non-profit. The organization has an excellent track record having helped reduce homelessness in the county by 85% and having helped to effectively eliminate homelessness among military veterans. The organization partners with a number of other agencies though it might benefit from stronger ties to providers of medical services. 	

Montgomery County Council
FY17 Evaluative Comments Information Sheet

Name of Organization: Bethesda Green Inc. 1	
Category/Program Area: Newer; Economic/Workforce Development	Amount Requested: \$59,592
Project Description: The Bethesda Green business incubator seeks operational support to accelerate green business start-ups into viable companies.	
Public benefit <i>(identified and demonstrated need; target population well served by proposal; project justification):</i> The organization has outlined their recent impacts in the community and identified the need for services. Additional information on the target population and geographic areas that will be served would have strengthened the proposal.	
Strength of Proposal <i>(clear description; measurable and relevant outcomes, including results achieved to date; achieved outcomes; integration/coordination with other nonprofits and County services; clear budget description; plan for future funding):</i> The proposal clearly identified areas of operation and relevant outcomes including results achieved up to date. The proposal included information on other county activities and companies involved in green business services. However, more information is needed on how the organization will engage other organizations to solve society's greatest challenges by helping them measure the impact on businesses, communities and the environment.	
Cost-benefit analysis <i>(cost of service or activities; impact on recipient relative to cost):</i> The total program cost is \$194,636 and the program is requesting an amount of \$59,592 in funding from the county. Additional information on the job description of the current full time employees could help clarify cost of service.	
Strength of organization <i>(organizational capacity; how long has agency delivered proposed or similar services and/or received public funds; number of staff, volunteers and partner organizations in program; how have they leveraged non-county government funding; capacity to carry out project):</i> Bethesda Green has demonstrated its capacity to sustain its operation by relying greatly on its strong volunteer board, the diverse business climate of Bethesda and the County. There is evidence of noteworthy significant level of in-kind professional support provided by corporate partners and the free rent benefit from Capital One.	

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Name of Organization: Bethesda Green, Inc. 2	
Category/Program Area: Newer; Economic/Workforce Development	Amount Requested: \$29,962
Project Description: Mentoring and Investment Program for high-growth early stage green and social impact businesses.	
Public benefit <i>(identified and demonstrated need; target population well served by proposal; project justification):</i> The organization has a detailed plan for the program. However, the target population and need for the mentoring partnerships has not been as clearly defined. Additional information regarding the need for this project and the population (including geographic area served) will help provide more justification for this funding proposal.	
Strength of Proposal <i>(clear description; measurable and relevant outcomes, including results achieved to date; achieved outcomes; integration/coordination with other nonprofits and County services; clear budget description; plan for future funding):</i> The budget and sustainability plan are clearly outlined and described in the proposal. The outcomes in the proposal appear to measure impact. Additional details regarding the collaborative partnerships will help provide more of an understanding of the organization's goals related to this project.	
Cost-benefit analysis <i>(cost of service or activities; impact on recipient relative to cost):</i> The return on investment appears to be very strong, as the costs are minimal. However, without clearly defining the need, it is difficult to ascertain the potential cost if this project was not in place. Based on funding received for this initiative previously, it has had positive impacts on the community.	
Strength of organization <i>(organizational capacity; how long has agency delivered proposed or similar services and/or received public funds; number of staff, volunteers and partner organizations in program; how have they leveraged non-county government funding; capacity to carry out project):</i> The organization has the capacity to manage funding and execute on projects. They have previously received county funding, and are able to leverage other funding sources. They also intend to draw down support regarding this project request over time.	

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Name of Organization: Bethesda Green, Inc. 3	
Category/Program Area: Newer; Community Development	Amount Requested: \$15,811
Project Description: Sustainability Impact Management (Measure What Matters) Campaign	
<p>Public benefit (<i>identified and demonstrated need; target population well served by proposal; project justification</i>): The organization has outlined the approach and use of the assessment tool on this project. The target population and need for this Measures What Matters tool have not been as clearly defined. Additional information regarding the need for this tool and the population (including specific geographic area) will help provide more justification for this funding proposal.</p>	
<p>Strength of Proposal (<i>clear description; measurable and relevant outcomes, including results achieved to date; achieved outcomes; integration/coordination with other nonprofits and County services; clear budget description; plan for future funding</i>): The budget and sustainability plan are clearly outlined and described in the proposal. The outcomes in the proposal are not assessing impact, and serve more as outputs and gathering numerical data. Additional details regarding the collaborative partnerships will help provide more of an understanding of the organization's goals related to this project.</p>	
<p>Cost-benefit analysis (<i>cost of service or activities; impact on recipient relative to cost</i>): The return on investment appears to be very strong, as the costs are minimal. However, without clearly defining the need for this tool, and its impact in Montgomery County, it is difficult to ascertain the potential cost if this project was not in place. The applicant's proposal can be strengthened by including information on the B-Lab Assessment and results gleaned from that tool.</p>	
<p>Strength of organization (<i>organizational capacity; how long has agency delivered proposed or similar services and/or received public funds; number of staff, volunteers and partner organizations in program; how have they leveraged non-county government funding; capacity to carry out project</i>): The organization has the capacity to manage funding and execute on projects. They have previously received county funding, and are able to leverage other funding sources. They also intend to draw down support regarding this project request over time.</p>	

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Name of Organization: Bethesda Help, Inc.	
Category/Program Area: Established; Basic Need	Amount Requested: \$6,000
Project Description: Provide emergency assistance for rent, utilities and prescriptions to eligible residents of Southern Montgomery County in Bethesda Help's service area.	
Public benefit <i>(identified and demonstrated need; target population well served by proposal; project justification):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The need for financial support for clients is clear • The target population is well defined • There is, in concert with other similar organizations, a strong justification for the program that helps prevent homelessness as well as the disconnection 	
Strength of Proposal <i>(clear description; measurable and relevant outcomes, including results achieved to date; achieved outcomes; integration/coordination with other nonprofits and County services; clear budget description; plan for future funding):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The outcomes are clearly stated, with target numbers of clients to be served for each • There is clearly coordination with other nonprofits and government agencies • The budget is also clear, with funding primarily from public funds and contributions. There is a focus on fund-raising from individual donors. • Usually after 4-6 weeks there is follow-up to confirm assistance met needs 	
Cost-benefit analysis <i>(cost of service or activities; impact on recipient relative to cost):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The cost of preventing homelessness, etc. per this proposal is clearly worthwhile • The cost-benefit is difficult to assess without knowing the packages of funding and the eventual outcomes for clients 	
Strength of organization <i>(organizational capacity; how long has agency delivered proposed or similar services and/or received public funds; number of staff, volunteers and partner organizations in program; how have they leveraged non-county government funding; capacity to carry out project):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bethesda Help has been serving its clients since 1968 with no paid staff • The organization relies on strong commitment of volunteers which it proactively recruits • During the past 3 years, they have received both County Council and Executive grants and have private donors 	

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Name of Organization: Bethesda Metro Area Village	
Category/Program Area: Newer; Older Adults/ Disabilities	Amount Requested: \$25,000
Project Description: Funding for executive director of organization providing physical and social support to help seniors age in place in their homes.	
Public benefit <i>(identified and demonstrated need; target population well served by proposal; project justification):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helps seniors with services needed to remain in their homes Will provide a network to help members avoid social isolation Will be a valuable resource for the community in the future Hopes to provide mentoring and tutoring at an elementary school in the neighborhood. 	
Strength of Proposal <i>(clear description; measurable and relevant outcomes, including results achieved to date; achieved outcomes; integration/coordination with other nonprofits and County services; clear budget description; plan for future funding):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Program is in start-up phase with no members as yet. They believe they have strong interest in the community. They are working with the Montgomery County Village coordinator to learn best practices and from the experiences of other Villages. Bethesda Metro Area Village is part of the national aging-in-place village movement. The project is directly related to County priorities for provision of support and services to enable seniors to age safely and independently in their homes. 	
Cost-benefit analysis <i>(cost of service or activities; impact on recipient relative to cost):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Since there are no members and the program hasn't launched yet, it is difficult to assess a cost-benefit. It might be safe to assume that, within a few years, the benefits will be similar to other more established Villages in the County. 	
Strength of organization <i>(organizational capacity; how long has agency delivered proposed or similar services and/or received public funds; number of staff, volunteers and partner organizations in program; how have they leveraged non-county government funding; capacity to carry out project):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The application would be stronger if the organization had a track record in terms of actual members, volunteers and more robust fundraising. Next year they may have measurable results. 	

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Name of Organization: Big Brothers Big Sisters of the National Capital Area – County Executive	
Category/Program Area: Established; Youth Development	Amount Requested: \$34,340
Project Description: Provide one-to-one mentor relationships by pairing Bigs and Littles in Montgomery County	
Public benefit <i>(identified and demonstrated need; target population well served by proposal; project justification):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposal states that the organization will “provide unique, life-changing one-to-one mentor relationships by pairing Bigs and Littles in Montgomery County” but provides no further descriptions. 	
Strength of Proposal <i>(clear description; measurable and relevant outcomes, including results achieved to date; achieved outcomes; integration/coordination with other nonprofits and County services; clear budget description; plan for future funding):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The organization did not answer the first two application questions that provide a description of the program for which funding is requested and for a description of the organization. Responses to several other questions were quite scant. As a result, the application does not provide sufficient data to judge its merits. Two outcomes are listed: increase academic participation by one letter grade and avoidance of substance abuse, teen pregnancy, and gang affiliation. The measurements of “report cards” and “BBBS Program Outcome Evaluation” and targets of “80%” and “90%” do not include enough details to be relevant or informative. 	
Cost-benefit analysis <i>(cost of service or activities; impact on recipient relative to cost):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The \$34,340 funding request will cover 3% of the \$1,136,934 budget The organization listed no other sources of funding so it is unclear how they will have the funds to provide any services. 	
Strength of organization <i>(organizational capacity; how long has agency delivered proposed or similar services and/or received public funds; number of staff, volunteers and partner organizations in program; how have they leveraged non-county government funding; capacity to carry out project):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The organization provided a FY14 audit. As of June 30, 2014, it only had \$83,856 in net assets. Given its FY16 budget of nearly \$1.3 million, the organization’s reserves are exceptionally low, particularly when noting that the organization recognized a \$550,000 reduction in net assets from FY13 to FY14. Information on the percent of board members that donate to the organization would have been helpful to know. BBBSNCA has served the area since 1949 but the proposal does not indicate what services were offered, assessment measures, or successes achieved by the organization or those it serves. 	

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Name of Organization: Boys & Girls Club of Greater Washington, Inc.	
Category/Program Area: Established; Youth Development	Amount Requested: \$35,528
Project Description: To provide fitness, nutrition, healthy lifestyle and positive relationship education in Germantown/Up County for youths aged 5-18 (The Triple Play Program).	
Public benefit <i>(identified and demonstrated need; target population well served by proposal; project justification):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Triple Play has three components: mind, body and soul which combine to offer a holistic approach to promoting health and wellness among the 120 youth that on average attend this after school program. The Triple Play assists many youth from low income families that may not have the means to afford a quality after-school program. The Triple Play curriculum discourages youth involvement in gangs by promoting healthy relationships and sport participation. The soul component of the program addresses setting boundaries as well as strengthening communication skills, self-esteem and age appropriate male/female relationships. 	
Strength of Proposal <i>(clear description; measurable and relevant outcomes, including results achieved to date; achieved outcomes; integration/coordination with other nonprofits and County services; clear budget description; plan for future funding):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The BGCGW has presented a clear proposal with targeted outcomes and a focus on minorities and lower income families. The program served over 120 students daily and is open to all Club members. In 2015, 80% of the Club youth participated in the Triple Play program at a minimum of 1.5 to 2.0 hours per week. The Club and the Triple Play Program in particular have a strong relationship with MCPS that provides transportation to the after-school program and referrals to the Club for membership with Triple Play access. 	
Cost-benefit analysis <i>(cost of service or activities; impact on recipient relative to cost):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The after school program is available to all Germantown BGCGW youth members. The cost of yearly membership at the Club is \$25 and once a member, after-school care is available to all youth members. For all families the benefit to cost is significant. For low income households the program is truly an affordable after-school care option. 	
Strength of organization <i>(organizational capacity; how long has agency delivered proposed or similar services and/or received public funds; number of staff, volunteers and partner organizations in program; how have they leveraged non-county government funding; capacity to carry out project):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Club with its present Director has been operating for decades. Triple Play was established in 2007 in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Over 80% of the BGCGW youth members are from minorities and over half of the members qualify for FARMS. Scholarships or reduced membership fees are offered to those families that cannot afford membership. Of youth surveyed at the Club in the National Youth Outcomes Initiative for 2015, 49% of surveyed Germantown site members participated in physical activity 5 days per week, 100% reported abstaining from tobacco, and 97% reported abstaining from alcohol use. 	